

# NWGRC

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

*A Region With A Bright Future*



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March 18, 2022

Elizabeth Smith  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Office of Planning and Environmental Management  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, GA

**RE: NWGRC Regional Plan Annual Implementation Program Report Submittal**

Dear Elizabeth:

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has completed an annual update of its regional plan and is submitting it with this letter for review by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. I certify that we have held the required public hearing on March 17, 2022 and have involved regional stakeholders, namely, the Northwest Georgia Regional Council, Georgia DCA, and Georgia Department of Economic Development, in development of the annual report in a manner appropriate to our region's dynamics and resources and in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. Evidence of the public hearing and stakeholder involvement is enclosed.

I certify that appropriate regional staff and decision-makers have, at a minimum, reviewed the following planning documents and taken them into consideration in formulating our annual report:

- *Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation SCORP 2022-2026 (draft)*
- *Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (2017)*
- *Metro NGA Water Planning District Water Resource Mgmt. Plan (2017) (amended Dec. 2020)*
- *Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (2017)*
- *Northwest Georgia's Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022 (CEDS)*
- *Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan, 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update Chattanooga Hamilton County-North Georgia TPO & 2020-2023 TIP as amended, Cartersville-Bartow County FY 2021-2024 TIP, Floyd County- Rome 2021-2024 TIP and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Atlanta Regional Commission MPO 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2020-2025 TIP, Georgia DOT Statewide FY 2021-2024 TIP*
- *Georgia Mountains Regional Commission 2019 CEDS & Regional Plan*
- *Three Rivers Regional Plan Update 2019 & FY20 Annual Implementation Report*

If you have any questions concerning our submittal, please contact Julianne Meadows, Director of Regional Planning at (706) 295-6485 or [jmeadows@nwgrc.org](mailto:jmeadows@nwgrc.org).

Sincerely,

Lloyd Frasier  
Executive Director, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Enclosures

**Regional Planning Economic Development Area Agency on Aging Workforce Investment Program**

*An Equal Opportunity Employer / Programs  
Auxiliary Aids / Services Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities*

# 2022 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report DRAFT



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# 2022 Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report DRAFT

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# Regional Plan Implementation Program Annual Report

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL PLAN

In 2019, the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council (Steering Committee) updated the Regional Plan with input from a Technical Advisory Committee, stakeholders, and the public. The Regional Plan includes Regional Goals and Policies; Regional Development Maps including the Regional Land Use Map, Conservation and Development Map, and Areas Requiring Special Attention Map; Regional Needs and Opportunities; and the Implementation Program including Performance Standards (Minimum and Excellence), Regional Work Program (2019-2023), and the Report of Accomplishments on the previous five-year work program. The Regional Plan meets Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Plan aligns with the Regionally Important Resource Plan, local Comprehensive Plans, state plans, and regional plans of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Atlanta Regional Commission, and Three Rivers Regional Commission.

## 1.2 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

NWGRC prepared this 2022 Annual Report on the Regional Plan Implementation Program according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regional Planning Requirements. It includes an annual Report of Accomplishments for FY 2021, a report on Local Government Minimum Standards, and additions or deletions to the current work program. This 2022 Report has been reviewed by the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council and regional stakeholders including representatives of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Department of Economic Development. The Annual Update is in alignment with these state and regional plans:



*NWGRC Council Meeting, Regional Plan Update February 2019*

- Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation SCORP 2022-2026 (draft)
- Coosa-North Georgia Regional Water Plan (2017)
- Metro NGA Water Planning District Water Resource Mgmt. Plan (2017) (amended Dec. 2020)
- Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan (2017)
- Northwest Georgia's Economic Development Strategy 2017-2022 (CEDS),
- Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization FY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan, 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update Chattanooga Hamilton County-North Georgia TPO & 2020-2023 TIP as amended, Cartersville-Bartow County FY 2021-2024 TIP, Floyd County- Rome 2021-2024 TIP and 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Atlanta Regional Commission MPO 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and FY 2020-2025 TIP, Georgia DOT Statewide FY 2021-2024 TIP
- Georgia Mountains Regional Commission 2019 CEDS & Regional Plan
- Three Rivers Regional Plan Update 2019 & FY20 Annual Implementation Report

### 1.3 REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2021

The Report of Accomplishments for FY 2021 presents an annual status update on each project listed in the 2021-2024 Regional Work Program. Each project must be listed as either Ongoing, Completed, Dropped or Postponed. If the project is shown as Dropped or Postponed, a reason must be given to show the circumstances and changes that occurred. If the project is shown as Completed, the date completed is also shown. If a project is shown as Ongoing, it means it is currently in progress by the Regional Commission or another agency.

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| Report of Accomplishments<br>FY 2021-2024   |  |   |                         |                              |                          |                                 |   |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Priority  | Strategy   | Action  | Partners                | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)     | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing                         | Project Status                                    |
| Economic Development  |  |   |                         |                              |                          |                                 |   |
| Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.  | Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment  | 1.Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates  | NWGRC                   | 2021-2024<br>\$10,000/<br>YR |                          |                                 | Ongoing   |
|   |  | 2. Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)  | NWGRC                   | 2022<br>\$10,000             |                          |                                 | Not yet begun                                     |
|   |  | 3. Implement Cares Act Supplemental Assistance for EDD Partnership Planning Grant Funds to identify potential resiliency, mitigation, and economic recovery projects in NW Georgia.   | NWGRC                   | 2021-2022<br>\$400,000       |                          |                                 | Ongoing, studies completed, now in implementation |
| Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the jobs and industries in our region). | Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/business, workforce development providers, and educational institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership. | 4. Develop and implement education, training, and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills for ages 14-21 through approved training providers; and provide layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board. | WIOA, Local Governments |                              |                          | \$7M/ yr. annual program budget | Ongoing   |



| Report of Accomplishments<br>FY 2021-2024   |   |   |   |                          |                          |         |  |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--|
| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status   |
| Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry        | Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies              | 5. Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with EDA and lending institutions, and with COVID-19-related loan assistance | NWGRC, EDA, Lenders, Businesses                 | 2021-2024<br>\$95,000    |                          |         | Ongoing  |
| <b>Housing</b>  |   |   |   |                          |                          |         |  |
| There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns | Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs | 6. Work with housing agencies, state agencies to hold 1-2 Housing Resource Workshops to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs  | NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power | 2021-2024<br>\$3,000     |                          |         | Dropped, need is for planning and zoning training, housing assessments, GICH programming |
|   |   | 8. Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories, and to implement GICH action plans  | NWGRC, local governments                        | 2021-2024<br>\$7,500/ YR |                          |         | Ongoing  |
|   |   | 9. Survey local governments to determine interest in “circuit-riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance   | NWGRC   | 2021-2022<br>\$1,000/ YR |                          |         | Ongoing, need may be for additional training   |

| Report of Accomplishments<br>FY 2021-2024  |   |   |  |                           |                          |         |  |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--|
| Priority   | Strategy  | Action  | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status                                   |
|  |   | 10. If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance  | NWGRC, DCA, local governments  | 2022-2024<br>\$5,000      |                          |         | Postponed  |
| Natural and Historic Resources   |   |   |  |                           |                          |         |  |
| More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia’s natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty | Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources   | 11. Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources | NWGRC  | 2021<br>\$5,000           |                          |         | Ongoing  |
|  |   | 17. Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region’s historic, cultural and natural assets   | NWGRC  | 2021<br>\$5,000           |                          |         | Once RIR plan updated, implementation will begin |
|  | Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points | 16. Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-5 communities/ year to plan for expansion of and safety improvements to land and water trails, parks and recreation areas, trailheads, and water access/ put ins     | NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies, SORBA, SETPL, other groups | 2021-2024<br>\$7,500/ YR  |                          |         | Ongoing  |
| Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural   | Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources   | 17. Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and  | NWGRC, HPD   | 2021-2024<br>\$15,000/ YR |                          |         | Ongoing  |



**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority   | Strategy  | Action   | Partners                     | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)     | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status  |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---|
| resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance                     |   | nominations for regionally significant historical assets (Grant Farm, LaFayette, Tunnel Hill, Cohutta/ St Andrews Chapel, Dallas Historic District, Cedartown Historic District, Bremen, others) |                              |                              |                          |         |   |
|  |   | 18. Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys   | NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center | 2021-2024<br>\$6,000         |                          |         | Ongoing   |
|  |   | 19. Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.            | NWGRC, HPD, local govts      | 2021-2024<br>\$10,000/<br>YR |                          |         | Ongoing, combine with #17                                 |
| Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations | Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region | 20. Prepare Dozier Creek, Dykes Creek, Woodward Creek, Etowah River (Hwy 411-Coosa R.), Watershed Management Plans for USDA NRCS NWQI  | NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D | 2021<br>\$20,000             |                          |         | Completed   |
|  |   | 21. Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan   | NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000         |                          |         | Postponed, continue to partner with Limestone Valley RC&D |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority  | Strategy   | Action   | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
|   |  | 22. Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, a regional organization of utility providers which advises the Coosa-North Georgia Water Council and assists the Council to implement the CNG Water Plan | NWGRC   | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000/yr.  |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|   |  | 23. Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies   | NWGRC   | 2021-2024<br>\$7,500/yr.  |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|   |  | 24. Work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams  | Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD | 2021-2024<br>Staff time   |                          |         | Ongoing        |
| Land Use  |  |  |   |                           |                          |         |                |
| Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest | Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning | 25. Assist 2-5 local governments each year with review and update of zoning ordinance and/or map   | NWGRC, local governments  | 2021-2024<br>\$20,000/yr. |                          |         | Ongoing        |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority   | Strategy   | Action  | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status    |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs         | Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.  | 26. Work with training providers including UGA CVIOG, DCA, GAZA, and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested   | NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOG) | 2021-2024 \$1,000/ yr.   |                          |         | Postponed in 2021 |
| <b>Planning and Local Government Assistance</b>  |  |   |  |                          |                          |         |                   |
| Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans | Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation | 27. Assist 2-3 local governments/ year to prepare scheduled updates to local comprehensive plans – Catoosa, Chattooga, Haralson, Polk, and Walker in 2021   | NWGRC, local governments   | 2021-2024 \$60,000/yr.   |                          |         | Ongoing           |
|  |  | 28. Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications  | NWGRC, local governments   | 2021-2024 \$5,000/ yr.   |                          |         | Ongoing           |
|  |  | 29. Meet with approx. 15 governments each year to discuss implementation of the local comprehensive plan and regional plan, reporting requirements and other topics related to planning and implementation; assist with amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities | NWGRC, local governments   | 2021-2024 \$7,500/yr.    |                          |         | Completed         |
|  |  | 30. Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements as required-   | NWGRC, local governments   | 2021-2024 \$3,500/ yr.   |                          |         | Ongoing           |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners                | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing                  | Project Status                                   |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
|   |   | Catoosa, Chattooga, and Walker in 2021  |                         |                           |                          |                          |  |
|   | Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs’ Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning               | 31. Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> in 2023; prepare annual implementation reports.  | NWGRC                   | 2021-2024<br>\$7,500      |                          |                          | Annual reports in progress, update not yet begun |
| Provide resources to assist local governments to meet demands of growth, reinvestment, needs of rural areas | Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments                                  | 32. Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, Section 106 reviews, and other coordinated reviews each year   | NWGRC                   | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |                          | Ongoing  |
|   |   | 37. Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials, newsletter, and Facebook page for Regional Commission services and assistance  | NWGRC local governments | 2020-2023<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |                          | Ongoing  |
| Transportation  |   |   |                         |                           |                          |                          |  |
| Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth   | Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects | 33. Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and | NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs       |                           |                          | Ongoing<br>\$20,000/ yr. | Ongoing  |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority | Strategy | Action   | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status |
|----------|----------|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
|          |          | the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects   |   |                          |                          |         |                |
|          |          | 34. Prepare Regional Transit Study/ Assessment   | GDOT,<br>NWGRC                                      | 2021-2022<br>\$40,000    |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|          |          | 35. Implement FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study and THRIVE2055 transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray | NWGRC,<br>THRIVE2055                                | 2021-2022<br>\$5,000/yr. |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|          |          | 36. Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure   | NWGRC,<br>GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA    | 2021-2022                |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|          |          | 37. Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSPLOST/ TIA referendum: Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities,                                  | NWGRC,<br>GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000     |                          |         | Postponed      |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority   | Strategy   | Action   | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
|  |  | project list and data; Citizen Review Panels   |   |                           |                          |         |                |
| Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region | Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design | 38. Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.   | NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA                                       | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|  |  | 39. Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance | NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center  | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |         | Postponed      |
|  | Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces, and downtowns              | 40. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails   | NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt | 2021-2024<br>\$7,500      |                          |         | Postponed      |

**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority   | Strategy  | Action   | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status                                    |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---|
|  |   |  | Greenway Association, THRIVE2055  |                          |                          |         |   |
|  |   | 41. Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown, and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study   | NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies | 2024 Staff time          |                          |         | Completed, included in comprehensive plan updates |
| Broadband  |   |  |   |                          |                          |         |   |
| Improve broadband and telecommunication services | Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program. | 42. Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation  | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers                                      | 2021-2024 \$5,000        |                          |         | Ongoing   |
|  |   | 43. Assist 1-3 local governments/ year to amend their comprehensive plans to include a Broadband Element   | NWGRC, local governments  | 2021-2024                |                          |         | Ongoing   |
|  |   | 44. Implement key priorities of the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan through the Regional Broadband Committee and GA Broadband Deployment Initiative, through grant writing and planning assistance | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers                                      | 2021-2024 \$5,000        |                          |         | Completed   |
|  |   | 45. Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA   | NWGRC, DCA, local   | 2021-2022 \$5,000        |                          |         | Postponed   |



**Report of Accomplishments  
FY 2021-2024**

| Priority | Strategy  | Action   | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)      | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing | Project Status |
|----------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------|
|          |   | Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility study to address priority gaps in service | governments, providers                              |                               |                          |         |                |
|          |   | 46. Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments  | NWGRC, local governments, providers                 | 2021-2022<br>\$7,500/ yr.     |                          |         | Ongoing        |
|          | Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources | 47. Attend 2-3 workshops and trainings/ year, and provide training, planning, and zoning, ordinance update, and historic preservation assistance to 1-5 local governments per year concerning regulation and review of 5-G technologies; provide information to NWGRC Regional Council on quarterly basis              | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers, GMA, ACCG | 2021-2022<br>\$500-1,000/ yr. |                          |         | Completed      |

## 1.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINIMUM STANDARDS UPDATE

To encourage implementation of the Regional Plan, realize the Regional Vision and address the Regional Issues and Opportunities, the NWGRC set Minimum and Excellence thresholds for local governments as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Regional Planning Requirements. The Minimum Standard includes essential activities for consistency with the Regional Plan.

In 2020 NWGRC met with 26 local governments for Plan Implementation Meetings, to review the comprehensive plan, regional plan, and regionally important resource plan, including assessment of minimum and excellence standards. These included Bartow County, Adairsville, Cartersville, Kingston, Emerson, Euahlee, White, Dalton, Tunnel Hill, Varnell, Gilmer County, Ellijay, East Ellijay, Pickens County, Nelson, Jasper, Talking Rock, Murray County, Chatsworth, Eton, Gordon County, Calhoun, Fairmount, Plainville, Ranger, and Resaca. Due to COVID-19, a 90-day extension on Plan Implementation Meeting deadlines was given.

The Minimum Standard requirements are the same for all local governments in the region, as follows:

| Number | Minimum Standard Requirement  | Not Meeting | Action to assist |
|--------|---|-------------|------------------|
| Min1   | The local government has a comprehensive plan that complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-1, Minimum Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning</i> and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority. | None        |                  |
| Min2   | The local government has a Service Delivery Strategy (O.C.G.A. 36-70-22) that is verified by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and has been officially adopted by the local governing authority.  | None        |                  |
| Min3   | The municipal/county clerk meets the mandated orientation training as specified in State law (O.C.G.A. sections 36-1-24 and 36-45-20).  | None        |                  |
| Min4   | Newly elected municipal/county officials participate in training sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association or the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.  | None        |                  |
| Min5   | The local government uses the Guiding Principles contained in the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan as guidance for making decisions consistent with achieving the Regional Vision or addressing the Regional Priorities and Strategies.  | None        |                  |
| Min6   | The local government uses the General Policies and Protection Measures in the <i>Northwest Georgia Regionally Important Resource Plan</i> when making decisions that affect Regionally Important Resources.   | None        |                  |
| Min7   | The local government complies with the <i>Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-3, for Developments of Regional Impact</i> .   | None        |                  |

|              |  |   |   |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Min8</b>  | A hazard mitigation plan approved by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has been officially adopted by the local governing authority. | None  |   |
| <b>Min9</b>  | The local government has the ability to send and receive electronic communications.  | None  |   |
| <b>Min10</b> | The local government meets state financial reporting requirements.   | Aragon, Braswell, Euharlee, Menlo, Ranger, Resaca, Talking Rock, Taylorsville, Waco, White, are shown as having more than one delinquent report (Report of Local Govt Finance or Government Management Indicators). | NWGRC will continue to follow up with communities especially the smaller communities that may need additional assistance. |
| <b>Min11</b> | The local government meets E-Verify requirements through Department of Audits.   | None  |   |

## 1.5 REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS

COVID-19 caused changes in operations for local governments, Regional Commissions and state agencies and some ongoing effects are still seen, however federal funding is now coming to state and local governments for infrastructure, broadband, and economic recovery. Developments of Regional Impact are seen often. Comprehensive planning is now more critical than ever. CARES Act Supplemental EDA funding is now in place for NWGRC Community and Economic Development including preparation of a regional resiliency plan and identifying local and regional projects. COVID-related SBA and EDA loan funding assistance was also provided by NWGRC. New projects are indicated with an underline, while projects that were completed or dropped are shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025   |   |   |                         |                           |                          |               |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners                | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing       |
| Economic Development  |   |   |                         |                           |                          |               |
| Ensure infrastructure is in place across region to meet needs of existing and new business and industry.      | Implement regional and local plans and strategies for infrastructure improvements needed to support job creation/retention and private investment | 1. Assist 10-15 communities as identified annually to improve or expand infrastructure to support economic development through grant writing, planning, and document/plan updates and to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; assist with projects related to ARP, IIJA, recovery funds | NWGRC                   | 2022-2025<br>\$70,000/ YR |                          |               |
|   |   | 2. Update the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)  | NWGRC                   | 2022<br>\$10,000          |                          |               |
|   |   | 3. Implement Cares Act Supplemental Assistance for EDD Partnership Planning Grant Funds to identify potential resiliency, mitigation, and economic recovery projects in NW Georgia.   | NWGRC                   | 2022-2023<br>\$400,000    |                          |               |
| Focus on improvement of skills for jobs in Northwest Georgia (specific training and skill development for the | Improve local and regional partnerships between industry/ business, workforce development providers, and educational                              | 4. Develop and implement education, training, and employment opportunities for unemployed/ underemployed individuals in Northwest Georgia; provide leadership training and work ready skills  | WIOA, Local Governments | 2022-2025                 |                          | Federal funds |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025   |   |   |  |                                  |                          |         |
|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)         | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
| jobs and industries in our region).   | institutions both K-12 and post-secondary, and community leadership.  | for ages 14-21 through approved training providers; and provide layoff support services, under direction of Workforce Development Board.  |  |                                  |                          |         |
| Improve competitiveness of Northwest Georgia communities to attract and retain business and industry        | Provide planning and funding assistance to increase economic competitiveness in coordination with state and federal agencies              | 5. Provide loan packaging to assist 5-10 businesses each year to expand operations or add jobs, including assessment of need, preparation of loan packages and financial planning in partnership with EDA and lending institutions, and with COVID-19-related loan assistance | NWGRC, EDA, Lenders, Businesses                            | 2022-2025<br>\$95,000            |                          |         |
| Housing   |   |   |  |                                  |                          |         |
| There is a lack of safe, affordable housing and a lack of mid to high range housing investment in downtowns | Incentivize redevelopment of blighted or vacant areas for residential use; provide assistance for range of local government housing needs | <del>6. Work with housing agencies, state agencies to hold 1-2 Housing Resource Workshops to provide resources and training for local governments and agencies on regional housing issues and needs</del>   | <del>NWGRC, DCA, UGA, GICH, GA Conservancy, GA Power</del> | <del>2021-2024<br/>\$3,000</del> |                          |         |
|   |   | 7. Assist 1-2 communities/ YR to apply for GA Initiatives for Community Housing (GICH), to prepare housing inventories, and to implement GICH action plans  | NWGRC, local governments                                   | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500/ YR         |                          |         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025  |   |   |                               |                          |                          |         |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority   | Strategy  | Action  | Partners                      | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|  |   | 8. Survey local governments to determine interest in “circuit-riding” or shared assistance program for code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance   | NWGRC                         | 2022-2025<br>\$1,000/ YR |                          |         |
|  |   | 9. If enough communities express interest, develop local government pilot program for “circuit-riding” or shared assistance with code enforcement, zoning, and related assistance   | NWGRC, DCA, local governments | 2023-2025<br>\$5,000     |                          |         |
| Natural and Historic Resources   |   |   |                               |                          |                          |         |
| More people need to connect with Northwest Georgia’s natural resources so they will enjoy and protect its diversity and beauty | Identify, protect, preserve and promote identified Regionally Important Resources | 10. Update the Regional Resource Plan per Section 110-12-4-, 02(4) of Rules of Georgia Department of Community Affairs, including recommended actions to address critical resources and improve access to natural resources | NWGRC                         | 2022<br>\$5,000          |                          |         |
|  |   | 11. Implement RIR plan: Develop publicly accessible GIS database and maps highlighting region’s historic, cultural, and natural assets  | NWGRC                         | 2023-2025<br>\$7,500/ YR |                          |         |

**Regional Work Program  
FY 2022-2025**

| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)          | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
|   |   | <u>12. Prepare Development of Regional Impact reviews and reports</u>   | <u>NWGRC, local governments</u>  | <u>2022-2025<br/>\$7,500/year</u> |                          |         |
|   |   | <u>13. Prepare map of Developments of Regional Impact in the region</u>   | <u>NWGRC</u>   | <u>Staff time</u>                 |                          |         |
|   | Promote trails, greenways and blueways; Improve safety, visibility, and access to trails and blueways and add access points | 14. Provide planning and grant writing assistance to 1-5 communities/ year to plan for expansion of and safety improvements to land and water trails, parks and recreation areas, trailheads, and water access/ put ins, including assistance related to recovery funds | NWGRC, local governments, DNR and grant agencies, SORBA, SETPL, other groups | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500/ YR          |                          |         |
| Preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural resources through inventory, citizen engagement, planning and funding assistance | Identify and preserve historic and cultural resources   | 15. Prepare 1-2 National Register preliminary determinations and nominations for regionally significant historical assets and/or assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or        | NWGRC, HPD   | 2022-2025<br>\$15,000/ YR         |                          |         |



| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025  |   |  |                                    |                                      |                          |         |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority   | Strategy  | Action   | Partners                           | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)             | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
| Maintain surface and groundwater quality throughout the region to meet federal and state regulations | Apply for funding to improve water quality, manage stormwater, restore streambanks, and protect water resources in the region | grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.  |                                    |                                      |                          |         |
|  |   | 16. Digitize NWGRC historic resource documents including National Register listings, historic resource surveys   | NWGRC, Bandy Heritage Center       | 2022-2025<br>\$6,000                 |                          |         |
|  |   | <del>19. Assist 1-2 local governments/ YR to prevent loss of HPD-Certified Local Government (CLG) status through technical assistance or grant writing to update ordinances, surveys, etc.</del> | <del>NWGRC, HPD, local govts</del> | <del>2021-2024<br/>\$10,000/YR</del> |                          |         |
|  |   | 20. Prepare Dozier Creek, Dykes Creek, Woodward Creek, Etowah River (Hwy 411 Coosa R.), Watershed Management Plans for USDA NRCS NWQI  | NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D       | 2021<br>\$20,000                     |                          |         |
|  |   | 17. Apply for funds to implement the 2019 Woodward Creek Watershed Management Plan   | NWGRC, Limestone Valley RC&D       | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000                 |                          |         |
|  |   | 18. Administer finances and grant funds and provide staff support for monthly and annual meetings of the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership   | NWGRC                              | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/yr.             |                          |         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025                         |  |  |  |                                 |                          |         |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority  | Strategy   | Action   | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)        | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|   |  | 19. Assist the North Georgia Water Resources Partnership, Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, or local governments and utilities to apply for state and federal funding to implement Regional Water Plans and related studies | NWGRC  | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500/yr.        |                          |         |
|   |  | 20. Work with GA EPD to develop a tool to prioritize delisting impaired streams in the Coosa-North Georgia Region and recommended implementation measures to delist these streams  | Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, NWGRC, GAEPD                                  | 2022<br>Staff time              |                          |         |
|   |  | <u>21. Administer SFY22 RWP Seed Grant funds for Coosa-North Georgia Water Council project to provide water quality modeling of proposed increases in Lake Lanier elevation levels.</u>                                      | <u>Coosa-North Georgia Water Council, N GA Water Resources Partnership, TetraTech, other parties, GAEPD, NWGRC</u> | <u>2022-2023<br/>Staff time</u> |                          |         |
| Land Use  |  |  |  |                                 |                          |         |
| Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest | Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning | 22. Assist 2-5 local governments each year with review and update of zoning ordinance and/or map   | NWGRC, local governments   | 2022-2025<br>\$20,000/yr.       |                          |         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025  |  |  |  |   |                          |         |
|--|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority   | Strategy   | Action   | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)                | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
| Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs   | Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance.  | 23. Work with training providers including UGA CVIOG, DCA, GAZA, and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested      | NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOG) | 2022-2025<br>\$1,000/ yr.               |                          |         |
| Local Government Planning Assistance   |  |  |  |   |                          |         |
| Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans and that balances conservation with development needs | Assist local governments to comply with current Georgia Zoning Procedures Law (O.C.G.A. 36-66-1, et seq.; 36-67-1, et seq.; and, 36-67A-1, et seq. as amended) and provide necessary technical assistance. | <u>24. Provide planning assistance related to implementation of federal recovery funds and projects</u>  | <u>NWGRC</u>   | <u>2022-2025</u><br><u>\$5,000/ yr.</u> |                          |         |
|  |  | 25. Assist with preparation of 3-6 scheduled updates to joint comprehensive plans – Bartow, Dade, Fannin, Haralson, Polk, and Walker in 2022-2023 incl recovery funding related projects | NWGRC, local governments   | 2022-2025<br>\$60,000/yr.               |                          |         |
|  |  | 26. Work with training providers including UGA CVIOG, DCA, GAZA, and GPA to provide at least one annual planning and zoning training in the region, and local training as requested      | NWGRC, local governments, Training providers (GAZA, GPA, DCA, UGA CVIOG) | 2022-2025<br>\$1,000/ yr.               |                          |         |
| Develop a coordinated long-term land use vision for Northwest Georgia that respects local land use plans   | Assist local governments to prepare and implement Comprehensive Plans and service delivery strategies in   | 27. Meet with 5-10 local governments each year to discuss topics related to local planning and implementation; assist with plan amendments as needed to reflect emerging priorities      | NWGRC, local governments   | 2022-2025<br>\$3,000/yr.                |                          |         |

**Regional Work Program  
FY 2022-2025**

| Priority | Strategy   | Action   | Partners                 | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|----------|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
|          | accordance with the Georgia Planning Act and Service Delivery Strategy Act, to implement projects and initiatives in the comprehensive plan, and to apply for PlanFirst designation. | 28. Provide assistance as requested to 1-3 communities/ year to review and update Service Delivery Strategy agreements as required- Catoosa, Chattooga, and Walker in 2021 | NWGRC, local governments | 2022-2025<br>\$3,500/ yr. |                          |         |
|          |  | 29. Assist 1-2 communities each year with PlanFirst applications   | NWGRC, local governments | 2021-2024<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |         |
|          | Update the Regional Plan according to Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning  | 30. Update the <i>Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, 2019-2023</i> in 2023; prepare annual implementation reports.   | NWGRC                    | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500      |                          |         |
|          | Provide outreach, training and technical assistance on planning and development needs of local governments   | 31. Develop marketing, branding, media, training and outreach materials, newsletter, and Facebook page for Regional Commission services and assistance                     | NWGRC, local governments | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |         |
|          |  | 32. Prepare 20-30 local plan reviews, transportation plan review, environmental reviews, Section 106 reviews, and other coordinated reviews each year                      | NWGRC                    | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/ yr. |                          |         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025  |   |  |                   |                          |                          |                         |
|--|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Priority   | Strategy  | Action   | Partners          | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing                 |
|  |   |  |                   |                          |                          |                         |
| Transportation   |   |  |                   |                          |                          |                         |
| Provide safe, efficient movement of people and goods through Northwest Georgia to enhance economic growth; | Improve coordination between local governments, GDOT, MPOs and federal agencies to implement regionally significant transportation projects | 33. Prepare Regional Transit Study/ Assessment   | GDOT, NWGRC       | 2022<br>\$40,000         |                          |                         |
|  |   | 34. Participate in meetings of federal and state transportation agencies, Atlanta MPO, Chattanooga/Hamilton County/North Georgia TPO, Rome-Floyd County MPO, Greater Dalton MPO, Cartersville-Bartow County MPO; provide quarterly planning and coordination between these agencies and the NWGRC Council and non-MPO governments on regionally significant projects | NWGRC, GDOT, MPOs |                          |                          | Ongoing<br>\$20,000/yr. |
|  |   | 35. Implement FHWA Nat'l Economic Partnership Grant freight and truck parking study and THRIVE2055 transportation initiatives, representing NWGRC Counties of Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray   | NWGRC, THRIVE2055 | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/yr. |                          |                         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025                                      |  |   |   |                                   |                          |         |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority   | Strategy   | Action  | Partners  | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)          | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|  |  | 36. Incorporate all local bike/ ped plans into a regional database; identify favorable connection corridors between bike/ ped infrastructure  | NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA               | 2022-2025<br>\$10,000             |                          |         |
|  |  | <u>37. Coordinate with GDOT District 6 and/or Office of Planning and with local governments and MPOs in needs related to ARP and IIJA recovery funding, incl training, technical assistance, etc.</u>                         | <u>NWGRC, GDOT, local governments</u>                       | <u>2022-2025<br/>\$5,000/ yr.</u> |                          |         |
|  |  | <del>37. Assist local governments to prepare for regional TSP/OST/ TIA referendum; Reconvene TIA roundtable; hold regular meetings; assist with development of priorities, project list and data; Citizen Review Panels</del> | <del>NWGRC, GDOT, local govts, legislative delegation</del> | <del>2022-2025<br/>\$5,000</del>  |                          |         |
| Improve connectivity of bike and pedestrian pathways throughout the region | Implement bike & pedestrian safety plans, GA Bicycle/ Pedestrian Safety Action Plans, Safe Routes to School, implement Complete Streets design | 38. Staff and administer and update website for Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia to implement the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan and local plans.  | NWGRC, GDOT, local govts and Bike! Walk! NWGA               | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/ yr.         |                          |         |
|  |  | 39. Participate in 1-2 Safe Routes to School Resource Center walk safety audits per year and assist 1-2 schools and local governments/ year to implement audit  | NWGRC, GDOT, Safe Routes Resource Center                    | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000/ yr.         |                          |         |

| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025 |   |  |  |                                |                          |         |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority                              | Strategy  | Action   | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)       | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|                                       |   | recommendations and GDOT Complete Streets policies through planning, training, and grant writing assistance  |  |                                |                          |         |
|                                       |   | 40. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails | NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055 | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500           |                          |         |
|                                       |   | <del>41. Assist Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown, and Polk County with planning and grant writing to implement the Cave Spring to Cedartown Trail Study</del>                | <del>NWGRC, Floyd County, Cave Spring, Cedartown and Polk County, funding agencies</del>                             | <del>2024<br/>Staff time</del> |                          |         |
|                                       | Develop more trails and trails systems that connect to parks, neighborhoods, retail centers, libraries, workplaces, and downtowns | 41. Assist Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities with planning and grant writing to implement the 2015 NW GA Feasibility Study for Bikeway & Pedestrian Multi-Use Trails | NWGRC, Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties and Cities, funding agencies, Chick-Chatt Greenway Association, THRIVE2055 | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500           |                          |         |



| Regional Work Program<br>FY 2022-2025   |   |   |  |                          |                          |         |
|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Priority  | Strategy  | Action  | Partners                                 | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.) | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
| Broadband   |   |   |  |                          |                          |         |
| Assess needs regarding 5G, provide assistance and resources<br>Improve broadband and telecommunication services | Partner with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, local governments, providers, and other agencies and initiatives, and participate in the Georgia Broadband Ready Program. | 42. Assist 1-5 communities/ year to apply for Broadband Ready designation   | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000     |                          |         |
|   |   | 44. Implement key priorities of the 2014 Northwest Georgia Digital Economy Plan through the Regional Broadband Committee and GA Broadband Deployment Initiative, through grant writing and planning assistance  | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000     |                          |         |
|   |   | 43. Regional Broadband Committee of NWGRC Council and NWGRC staff: With GA Broadband Deployment Initiative and providers, assist 5-10 local governments/ year to identify and prioritize service and speed demand, identify gaps in infrastructure and costs to address those gaps, and to develop local and/or regional plans of action or feasibility study to address priority gaps in service; including assistance for Federal and state ARPA/IIJA funding | NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers | 2022-2025<br>\$5,000     |                          |         |

**Regional Work Program  
FY 2022-2025**

| Priority | Strategy | Action   | Partners   | Short-Term<br>(1-5 yrs.)                  | Long-Term<br>(6-10 yrs.) | Ongoing |
|----------|----------|--|--|---|--------------------------|---------|
|          |          | 44. Provide planning and grant-writing assistance to 1-10 local governments/year to implement local broadband action plans or feasibility assessments; including assistance for Federal and state ARPA/IIJA funding  | NWGRC, local governments, providers                            | 2022-2025<br>\$7,500/ yr.                 |                          |         |
|          |          | <del>47. Attend 2-3 workshops and trainings/ year, and provide training, planning, and zoning, ordinance update, and historic preservation assistance to 1-5 local governments per year concerning regulation and review of 5-G technologies; provide information to NWGRC Regional Council on quarterly basis</del> | <del>NWGRC, DCA, local governments, providers, GMA, ACCG</del> | <del>2022-2025<br/>\$500-1,000/ yr.</del> |                          |         |

## HOMETOWN

## Model High School academic decathlon team wins Rookie of the Year at PAGE event

At this year's Georgia Academic Decathlon—sponsored by Professional Association of Georgia Educators—Model High School, coached by Sarah Syverson, captured Rookie of the Year honors, which is awarded to the highest-scoring team making its first appearance at face-to-face state competition.

In addition, Model High School is invited to attend USAD's Virtual Nationals to represent Georgia in the National Division IV competition. To qualify, the team was the next highest-scoring team in a division other than the state champion's division.

The competition was held on Friday, Feb. 25 and



Contributed

At this year's Georgia Academic Decathlon—sponsored by Professional Association of Georgia Educators—Model High School, coached by Sarah Syverson, captured Rookie of the Year honors, which is awarded to the highest-scoring team making its first appearance at face-to-face state competition.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 at Parkview High School.

In overall scoring, Division II (small school) winners include:

♦ Champion — Clayton County's Elite Scholars Academy, coached by Jack Smith;

♦ First Runner-up — Floyd County's Model High School, coached by Sarah Syverson;

♦ Second Runner-up — Richmond County's Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, coached by Melody Spire-Howe and James Samaha.

More than 150 high school students from across the state competed in the academic event.

Send submissions to Executive Editor John Bailey by calling 706-290-2282 or by email at [romenews@tribune.com](mailto:romenews@tribune.com).

## Man honored for perfect attendance, 58 years of service to Dalton Rotary

By Ryan Anderson  
The (Dalton) Daily Citizen

**DALTON** — When Judson Manly joined the Rotary Club of Dalton in 1964, the importance of attendance was emphasized to him, and he took the responsibility so seriously he's maintained perfect attendance for 58 years and 2,726 meetings. "You need to be here, and we want active members," Manly, 92, said he was told by other Rotarians. "This is not just a

meet-and-eat club, and I saw the club was responsible for doing a lot of good things in the community, (so) I wanted to be a part of that."

Even while battling prostate cancer, he scheduled his treatments in Atlanta around Rotary meetings so as not to miss them, which "is incredible," said George "Smitty" Barnett, president of the Rotary Club of Dalton. "It's a pleasure to know him, and to know his commitment to what we're doing (at Rotary)."

## 'Game-changer' mental health bill heads for Senate

By Andy Miller  
Georgia Health News

The Georgia House on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a wide-ranging mental health bill that includes stricter financial requirements on the state's Medicaid managed care companies.

House Bill 1013 now heads to the state Senate, where its path is less certain. House Speaker David Ralston made a rare appearance at the podium to address his chamber before the vote, and he told his colleagues that he hoped the Senate wouldn't water down the bill through "nitpicking" and would "appreciate that much is at stake... Lives are

one of only a few states that don't require a minimum level of medical spending and quality improvements for Medicaid insurers.

Jones told reporters that the goal is to have more money spent on patient care and not administrative costs.

The state House also approved a measure Tuesday that would allow grants for primary care facilities in rural and other high-need areas. Another bill that passed would allow patients to name a caregiver for help in their discharge planning by the hospital.

Increasingly, caregivers are performing medical tasks — such as medication manage-

## CUTS

From A1

Rep. Jasmine Clark, D-Lilburn, said the legislation's sponsors haven't explained what state services would have to be cut for the state to afford doing away with \$1 billion in tax revenue.

"We're going to have to cut from education, health care ... mental health," she said.

Wilson accused Republican leaders of playing politics with the issue by shoving the bill through the House just one week after introducing it.

"This bill has been rushed through in an election year because it looks good on a (campaign) mailer," he said. "But it's not good policy."



Rep.  
Jasmine  
Clark

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a draft Annual Report on the Implementation of the 2019 Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The draft annual report includes a report of accomplishments on projects completed in FY2021, a local government performance standards update, and updates to the regional work program.

The draft annual report has been prepared with review and consideration of the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Regional Water Plans, Georgia's Plan for Outdoor Recreation: SCORP 2022-2026, Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation plans, and adjacent Regional Commissions' regional plans.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to accept comments on the draft annual report. After the public hearing, the draft annual report will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for approval.

The public hearing on the draft annual report will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council, beginning at 11:00 am, at the City of Rome Civic Center, 400 Civic Center Drive, Rome, GA 30161.

The draft annual report can be viewed on the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission website, [www.nwgrc.org](http://www.nwgrc.org).

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## NWGRC website

https://www.nwgrc.org



Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is proud to be recognized as a Certified Organization of Ethics by the Georgia Municipal Association.

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**Mission Statement:** To improve the quality of life for every Northwest Georgia resident, through orderly growth, conservation of the region's natural and historic resources, and care and development of the region's human resources.

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission is a multi-county organization consisting of 15 Northwest Georgia counties and 49 municipalities. Major responsibilities of the Regional Commission include: (1) implementation of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989; (2) administration of the Area Agency on Aging; (3) administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and (4) providing planning and development assistance to member governments in areas they could not otherwise afford.

[READ MORE ▸](#)



Shannon Whitfield  
2022 / 2023 Chairperson

About the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Area Agency On Aging

Planning, Community & Economic Development

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Program

### Meetings & Announcements

Public Hearing Notice – Draft Annual Report of the Implementation of the Regional Plan

NWGRC Council Meeting – March 17, 2022

NWGRC Council Meeting – February 17, 2022

### Recent Publications

2022 Regional Plan Implementation Program – Annual Report DRAFT *posted on March 10th, 2022*

Walker County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2022-2032 *posted on February 4th, 2022*

### Serving the following counties







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## Public Hearing Notice – Draft Annual Report of the Implementation of the Regional Plan

Published on Mar 10, 2022 in [Meetings & Announcements](#)

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has prepared a draft Annual Report on the Implementation of the 2019 Northwest Georgia Regional Plan, in accordance with the Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, Chapter 110-12-6. The draft annual report includes a report of accomplishments on projects completed in FY2021, a local government performance standards update, and updates to the regional work program.

The draft annual report has been prepared with review and consideration of the Northwest Georgia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Regional Water Plans, Georgia's Plan for Outdoor Recreation: SCORP 2022-2026, Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation plans, and adjacent Regional Commissions' regional plans.

A public hearing is scheduled for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to accept comments on the draft annual report. After the public hearing, the draft annual report will be transmitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for approval.

The public hearing on the draft annual report will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the meeting of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council, beginning at 11:00 am, at the City of Rome Civic Center, 400 Civic Center Drive, Rome, GA 30161.

The draft annual report can be viewed on the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission website, [www.nwgrc.org](http://www.nwgrc.org).

News Release 📰

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## 2022 Regional Plan Implementation Program – Annual Report DRAFT

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2022 Regional Plan Implementation Program – Annual Report DRAFT 

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## **AGENDA**

### **NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL**

11:00 A. M.  
Thursday, March 17, 2022

Civic Center – 400 Civic Center Drive – Rome, Georgia

1. Call to Order – Commissioner Greg Hogan, Vice Chairperson
  - Invocation – Jim Henry, Chaplain
  - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Establishment of Quorum – Commissioner Steve Taylor, NWGRC Secretary
3. Ratification of New Nonpublic Council Member, as Recommended – Greg Hogan
  - Fannin County – Charles Donaldson
4. Approval – Minutes of the February 17, 2022, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC) Council Meeting – Greg Hogan
5. Department of Finance – Joey Cumbie, Director
  - Update on Financial Status
6. Department of Regional Planning – Julianne Meadows, Director
7. Department of Workforce Development – Lesia Lambert, Director
8. Area Agency on Aging – Lynne Reeves, Director
9. Executive Director's Report/Update – Lloyd Frasier
10. Public Hearing on Draft Annual Report on the Implementation of the Northwest Georgia Regional Plan – Julianne Meadows
11. Old/New Business
12. Adjournment/Lunch

**Next Meeting – Thursday, April 21, 2022**

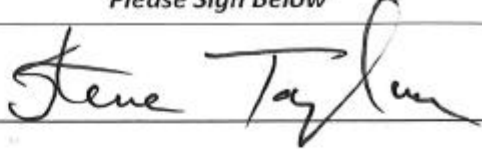





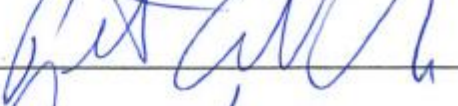



**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

**Sign-in Sheet (Page 1)**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

| <i>County/City/Nonpublic</i> | <i>Name</i>       | <i>Please Sign Below</i>   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Bartow County</b>         | Steve Taylor      |    |
| City of Cartersville         | Jayce Stepp       |  |
| Bartow County (Nonpublic)    | Karl Lutjens      |  |
| <b>Catoosa County</b>        | Steven Henry      |  |
| City of Fort Oglethorpe      | Rhonda James      |  |
| Catoosa County (Nonpublic)   | Vacancy           |  |
| <b>Chattooga County</b>      | Blake Elsberry    |   |
| City of Summerville          | Harry Harvey      |  |
| Chattooga County (Nonpublic) | Jim Henry         |  |
| <b>Dade County</b>           | Ted Rumley        |  |
| City of Trenton              | Alex Case         |  |
| Dade County (Nonpublic)      | Peter Cervelli    |  |
| <b>Fannin County</b>         | Jamie Hensley     |  |
| City of Blue Ridge           | Rhonda Haight     |  |
| Fannin County (Nonpublic)    | Charles Donaldson |  |









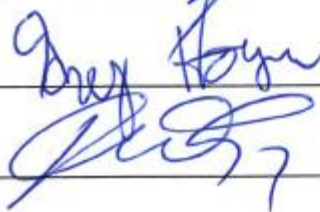
**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

**Sign-in Sheet (Page 2)**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

| <i>County/City/Nonpublic</i> | <i>Name</i>     | <i>Please Sign Below</i>   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Floyd County</b>          | Wright Bagby    |  |
| City of Rome                 | Craig McDaniel  |    |
| Floyd County (Nonpublic)     | Chris Butler    |  |
| <b>Gilmer County</b>         | Charlie Paris   |    |
| City of Ellijay              | Al Hoyle        |  |
| Gilmer County (Nonpublic)    | Kent W. Sanford |  |
| <b>Gordon County</b>         | M.L. Bud Owens  |   |
| City of Calhoun              | Ed Moyer        |  |
| Gordon County (Nonpublic)    | Dewayne Bowen   |  |
| <b>Haralson County</b>       | Ronnie Ridley   |  |
| City of Bremen               | Vacancy         |  |
| Haralson County (Nonpublic)  | Bob Birky       |  |
| <b>Murray County</b>         | Greg Hogan      |  |
| City of Chatsworth           | K.W. Gong       |  |
| Murray County (Nonpublic)    | Steve Noland    |  |






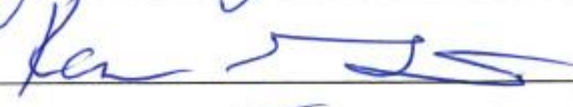

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

**Sign-in Sheet (Page 3)**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

| <i>County/City/Nonpublic</i>    | <i>Name</i>       | <i>Please Sign Below</i>   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Paulding County</b>          | David Carmichael  |    |
| City of Dallas                  | James Kelly       |  |
| Paulding County<br>(Nonpublic)  | David Austin      |    |
| <b>Pickens County</b>           | Kris Stancil      |  |
| City of Jasper                  | Steve Lawrence    |  |
| Pickens County<br>(Nonpublic)   | Gary Reece        |  |
| <b>Polk County</b>              | Linda Liles       |  |
| City of Cedartown               | Vacancy           |  |
| Polk County (Nonpublic)         | Alan Dean         |  |
| <b>Walker County</b>            | Shannon Whitfield |  |
| City of LaFayette               | Andy Arnold       |  |
| Walker County (Nonpublic)       | Chip Catlett      |  |
| <b>Whitfield County</b>         | Jevin Jensen      |  |
| City of Tunnel Hill             | Ken Gowin         |  |
| Whitfield County<br>(Nonpublic) | Mitch Sanford     |  |


**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

***Sign-in Sheet (Page 4)***

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

| <i>County/City/Nonpublic</i>     | <i>Name</i>       | <i>Please Sign Below</i>   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Governor's Appointee             | Nicholas Chester  |  |
| Governor's Appointee             | David Guldenschuh |  |
| Governor's Appointee             | Michele Taylor    |  |
| Lieutenant Governor's Appointee  | Vacancy           |  |
| Speaker of the House's Appointee | John Marshall     |  |

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 5)

**NWGRC STAFF**

Staff

Please Sign Below

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Barbara Snead     | Barbara Snead     |
| Lloyd Frasier     | Lloyd Frasier     |
| Alex Smith        | Alex Smith        |
| Chase Holden      | Chase Holden      |
| Delmos Stone      |                   |
| Diane Christian   | Diane Christian   |
| Ethan Calhoun     | Ethan Calhoun     |
| Gretchen Lugthart | Gretchen Lugthart |
| Jennifer Whorton  |                   |
| Joey Cumbie       | Joey Cumbie       |
| Joseph Davidson   |                   |
| Julianne Meadows  | Julianne Meadows  |
| Lesia Lambert     | Lesia Lambert     |
| Lindsay Wilson    |                   |
| Lynne Reeves      |                   |

**NWGRC STAFF**

## Staff

*Please Sign Below*

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Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Council Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Civic Center, Rome, Georgia

Sign-in Sheet (Page 7)

VISITOR

| County, City or Organization   | Name (Please Print) | Please Sign Below |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Ca DCA                         | Patrick Vickers     | Patrick Vickers   |
| ROME                           | SAMMY RICH          | Sammy Rich        |
| Rockmart                       | Stacy Smith         | Stacy Smith       |
| Rome / Floyd                   | Pat Powers Smith    | Pat Powers Smith  |
| Rep. Loudermilk                | Will Anderson       | Will Anderson     |
| Sen. Warnock                   | Kristin Fulford     | Kristin Fulford   |
| Congresswoman Greene           | Gavin Thompson      | Gavin Thompson    |
| Commissioner<br>Rhonda Wallace | Rhonda Wallace      | Rhonda Wallace    |
|                                |                     |                   |